



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

What is the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program?

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, or Partners program, provides expert technical assistance and cost-share incentives directly to private landowners, local communities, and organizations to restore fish and wildlife habitats. Habitat restoration helps protect important habitats on landowner properties for waterfowl and other migratory birds, songbirds, fish, plants and native fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

What habitats are restored?

The habitats restored are wetlands, grasslands, and forests/uplands. The plant life and wildlife differ for each habitat. Many times combinations of these habitats are restored on a landowner's property. The habitat to be restored depends on site history, condition, and current surrounding habitat.

What is the private landowner's role?

A simple phone call or letter initiates the process. The landowner works one-on-one with a local Service biologist to develop a project plan addressing the goals and objectives of the landowner and the Service to benefit fish and wildlife species on their land.

A cost-share is achieved by working with landowners and a host of nationally based and local entities (e.g., Federal, State, and local agencies, soil and water conservation districts, and private conservation organizations). To implement a project, landowners sign a cooperative agreement for the life of the agreement and otherwise retain full control of their land.

What are the benefits?

For the landowner, the Partners program fulfills landowner habitat conservation goals by working one-on-one in partnership with the local Service biologist. This ranges from restoring a habitat to attract certain species to restoring fallow land to its historical state.

For the species, restoration on private lands may result in the recovery of Federal trust species and provides benefits to many other wildlife species.

Who can participate?

Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible for restoration. Most participants are individual private landowners. For purposes of this program, "privately-owned" means land not owned by a State or the Federal Government.